

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of samples comprising:
an illumination input area;
an illumination light guide in optical communication with said illumination input area and forming an input light path;
a read window disposed approximately perpendicularly to said input light path;
a detection guide disposed approximately parallel to said input light path having one end proximate said read window and having a second end forming a detection output; and
an overillumination redirection component ~~one or more overillumination redirection facets~~ located proximate adjacent to and in optical communication with said illumination input area and said illumination light guide, ~~said one or more overillumination redirection facets adapted to redirect light overilluminating said illumination light guide away from said illumination light guide, said overillumination redirection component comprising one or more overillumination redirection facets~~ disposed at one or more angles relative to said input light path to intersect overilluminating light such that said overilluminating light is directed away from said input light path.
2. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said illumination light guide, said read window, and said detection guide comprise a light pathway, said format further comprising an illumination redirection facet in said light pathway between said illumination light guide and said read window.
3. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said illumination light guide, said read window, and said detection guide comprise a light pathway, said format further comprising a detection redirection facet in said light pathway between said read window and said detection guide.

4. (Original) The format of claim 1 further comprising a needle extending outwardly from said read window and adapted to deposit a sample onto said read window.

5. (Original) The format of claim 1 further comprising a dried reagent on said read window.

6. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 1 wherein said illumination light guide has a first cross-sectional area and said detection guide has a second cross-sectional area, said second cross-sectional area being larger than said first cross-sectional area.

7. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said illumination light guide and said detection guide are molded of a unitary piece of optically clear material.

8. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said illumination light guide and said detection guide are molded of separate pieces of optically clear material joined into a single optical format.

9. (Original) The format of claim 1 wherein said one or more overillumination redirection facets are adapted to direct light overilluminating said illumination light guide approximately perpendicular to said illumination light guide.

10. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 1 wherein said one or more overillumination redirection facets is exactly four and further wherein at least two of said overillumination redirection facets ~~is~~ are disposed at ~~approximately a 45 degree angle~~ acute angles from said illumination light guide.

11-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 1 wherein said one or more overillumination redirection facets include at least two overilluminating redirection facets.

22. (Currently Amended) The format of claim 21 wherein at least two overillumination redirection facets are disposed at ~~approximately a 45 degree angle~~ acute angles from said illumination input area and adapted to direct overillumination light away from said illumination light guide.

23. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 1 wherein at least one or more overillumination redirection facets are disposed at approximately 45 degree angles from said illumination input area and adapted to direct overillumination light away from said illumination light guide.

24. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 1 wherein said illumination light guide, said read window, and said detection guide comprise a light pathway, said format further comprising an illumination redirection facet in said light pathway between said illumination light guide and said read window, and a detection redirection facet in said light pathway between said read window and said detection guide.

25. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of samples comprising:
an illumination input area;
an illumination light guide in optical communication with said illumination input area and forming an input light path;
a read window disposed approximately perpendicularly to said input light path;
a detection guide disposed approximately parallel to said input light path having one end proximate said read window and having a second end forming a detection output; and
at least three overillumination redirection facets located proximate to and in optical communication with said illumination input area and said illumination light guide, said at least three overillumination redirection facets ~~being adapted to redirect light overilluminating said illumination light guide away from said illumination light guide~~ disposed at one or more angles relative to the input light path to intersect overilluminating light such that said overilluminating light is direct away from said input light path.

26. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 wherein at least one of the least three overilluminating redirection facets are disposed at approximately 45 degree angles from said illumination input area and adapted to direct overillumination light away from said illumination light guide.

27. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 further comprising a needle extending outwardly from said read window and adapted to deposit a sample onto said read window.

28. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 25 further comprising a dried reagent on said read window.

29. (Currently Amended) A format for optical analysis of samples comprising:
an illumination input area;
an illumination light guide in optical communication with said illumination input area and forming an input light path;
a read window disposed along said input light path, wherein said illumination light guide, said read window, and said detection guide comprise a light pathway;
a detection guide having one end proximate said read window and having a second end forming a detection output; and
one or more overillumination facets located ~~proximate~~ adjacent to and in optical communication with said illumination input area and said illumination light guide, said overillumination facets disposed at one or more angles relative to the input light path to direct overilluminating light away from the input light path.

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 29 wherein said read window is disposed approximately perpendicular to said input light path.

32. (Previously Presented) The format of claim 29 wherein said detection guide is disposed approximately parallel to said input light path.

33. (New) The format of claim 1 wherein said one or more overillumination redirection facets is exactly four and at least one of said overillumination redirection facets is disposed at an approximately a 45-degree angle from said illumination input area.